

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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San Diego, California***

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For Immediate Release

RICKY “ROCK” MARQUEZ SENTENCED FOR CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE ECSTASY AND POSSESSION OF A MACHINE GUN

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - October 18, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that Ricky Edmundo Marquez, aka “Rock,” was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego, by United States District Court Judge Marilyn L. Huff to serve 121 months (10 years) in federal prison following his convictions for conspiracy to distribute 33,000 ecstasy tablets between May 2003 and January 23, 2004 and possession and transfer of a machine gun on December 23, 2003. Marquez pled guilty to those charges on June 8, 2004, pursuant to a plea agreement, in two separate cases. One case was a drug indictment in which Marquez was charged along with codefendant Marcel Van der Basch (a Dutch citizen). The other case was a firearms indictment in which Marquez was charged along with codefendant Michael Wayne Jackson (an Escondido gunsmith). Van der Basch has already been sentenced to 24 months in custody and Jackson has already been sentenced to eight months in custody.

At sentencing, Judge Huff ordered the criminal forfeiture of a 2003 Honda Pilot that was used to transport the machine gun to a shooting range in Valley Center, California on December 23, 2003, and the forfeiture of \$7,880 in cash found at Marquez' home on January 23, 2004. The court also imposed a \$200 penalty assessment and a term of three years of supervised released.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward C. Weiner, who prosecuted the case, in connection with the guilty pleas Marquez admitted that he negotiated with an undercover witness to sell large quantities of ecstasy tablets which Marquez was obtaining from various sources of supply. These sources included one or more people Marquez met with during several trips to the Netherlands, which is a source country for ecstasy. Mr. Weiner stated that Marquez was in the process of making arrangements for 33,000 ecstasy tablets to be distributed after they had been transported from Europe into the United States, through Mexico.

Regarding the firearms charges, Marquez admitted that sometime before December 23, 2003, he arranged to obtain, and yo have assembled as a machine gun, a Bushmaster .223 caliber rifle. Marquez, along with others, subsequently test fired the machine gun and other weapons at a remote shooting range. Thereafter, Marquez sold the machine gun for \$5,000.

DEFENDANT:

Ricky Edmundo Marquez

SUMMARY OF CHARGES:

1. Criminal Case No. 04cr0434-H
Conspiracy to distribute controlled substances
(21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 846) (Count 2)
Maximum Penalty: 20 years in custody, \$1,000,000 fine
2. Criminal Case No. 04cr0435-H
Possession of an unregistered firearm/machine gun
(26 U.S.C. §§ 5861(d) and 5871) (Count 4)
Maximum Penalty: 10 years in custody, \$250,000 fine, and criminal forfeiture

INVESTIGATING AGENCIES:

Drug Enforcement Administration/Narcotics Task Force
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives